Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. While not acquiescing in this rejection in any way, these claims are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

Claim 5 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-14, and 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being "obvious" over Cathey *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,255,772) in view of Rasmussen (U.S. Patent No. 5,762,773). While not acquiescing in this rejection nor in the characterization of the references as stated in the office action, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. As such, the discussion below is with reference to the amended claims.

Cathey *et al.* discloses a field emission device that includes pixels divided by a black matrix 322. Cathey *et al.* discloses that the black matrix may be made of "any suitable material" and that the material should not be affected by electron bombardment. *See, e.g.,* Cathey at col. 9, lines 14-18. The office action alleges that "this would make the black matrix insulative." *See* 2/13/03 office action at page 3. Applicant traverses this assertion inasmuch as the referenced portion of Cathey *et al.* would appear to simply mean that the black matrix material should not decompose or break down when subjected to electron bombardment. Indeed, Cathey *et al.* specifically designates certain layers as being "insulating" (*e.g.,* insulating layer 302), but not the black matrix.

Rasmussen discloses faceplates for field emission displays having black matrix materials. Praseodymium-manganese oxide is among the various materials identified as

being usable for the black matrix. However, Rasmussen does not describe that the praseodymium-manganese oxide should of high resistance so that the black matrix does not drain electrons from the emission source, as set forth in claims 1 and 10. As noted in the present specification, the conductivity of praseodymium-manganese oxide is dependent on the molar ratio of praseodymium to manganese. Thus, although Rasmussen discloses the use of praseodymium-manganese oxide for a black matrix, there is no disclosure of using praseodymium-manganese oxide of high resistance so that the black matrix does not drain electrons from the emission source. As described in the present specification, this advantageously reduces the power consumption of the flat panel field emission display. Neither this problem nor its solution is recognized in the disclosure of Rasmussen. Accordingly, even assuming for the sake of argument that Cathey *et al.* and Rasmussen were properly combinable, the combination does not provide the subject matter of claims 1 and 10.

Claims 3-9, 12-14, 28 and 30 depend from either claim 1 or claim 10 and are likewise believed to be allowable. In addition, these claims contain additional features not taught or suggested by the applied references and Applicant respectfully traverses the assertions to the contrary in the office action.

New claims 32-36 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. The subject matter of these new claims is fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter is added. Claims 32 and 33 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of this dependency. Claim 34 is directed to a flat panel field emission display in which an anode switching scheme is used and the black matrix comprises an insulating material of high resistance to prevent electrical

shorting between different color segments of the display. Applicant submits that the applied art does not teach or suggest such a display.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Nixon & Vanderhye P.C.

Michael J. Shea
Registration No. 34,725

1100 North Glebe Road, Suite 800
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: 703-816-4000
Facsimile: 703-816-4100
MJS:dbp